

ABSTRACT

[0034] A flexible molding component used with a base mold improves on existing methods of forming fiber reinforced composite parts. The molding component is formed of a flexible body structure having an interfacing surface and a perimeter region including a perimeter seal configured for sealing engagement with the base mold. Resin and vacuum distribution channels are formed in the interfacing surface to deliver resin to a fiber lay up disposed on the base mold and draw the resin across and through the lay up, respectively, to properly mix the resin/fiber combination which forms the desired part. Application of the vacuum causes the perimeter seal of the flexible body structure to sealingly engage with the base mold to enclose materials between the body structure and the mold, as well as causing the interfacing surface to draw against the resin/fiber combination and the mold to shape the combination into the desired part.